

***Remarks***

By the foregoing amendments, the specification has been amended to update the priority information upon entry of the present application into the U.S. National Phase: these amendments add no new matter. The specification has also been amended to replace the sequence listing as filed in the international application with a substitute sequence listing in proper format for U.S. practice. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821-1.825, the computer readable and paper copies of the substitute sequence listing submitted herewith are the same and include no new matter.

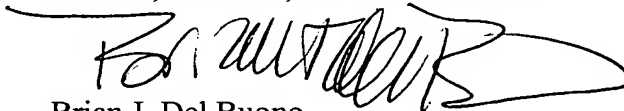
By the foregoing amendments, claims 4, 6, 9, 12, 21-31, 33, 38-49, 51-52, 54-65, 67-68, 70-79, 81, 83-84, 86-95, 101, 103-106, and 110-113 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-20, 32, 34-36, 50, 66, 80, 82, 97, 100, 102, and 107-109 are sought to be amended. These amendments are sought to place the claims into proper form for U.S. practice, do not introduce new matter, and are supported in the specification, for example, at pages 3-4; at page 73, lines 21-30; at original claim 4; and at original claim 6. Hence, their entry and consideration are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-20, 32, 34-37, 50, 53, 66, 69, 80, 82, 85, 96-100, 102, and 107-109 are pending in the application, with 1, 37, 53, 69, 85, and 109 being the independent claims.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono", written over a horizontal line.

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